

PROFESSIONAL VOICE:

Integrated Practices of Teaching, Research and University Extension

> Maria Fabiana Bonfim de Lima-Silva Aline Menezes Guedes Dias de Araújo Patrícia Brianne da Costa Penha Gabriella Lucena Feitosa Mayra Hadassa Ferreira Silva (Organizers)



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To the commitment and dedication of all extension workers, ASSEVOX collaborators and the students of the Associated Postgraduate Program in Speech Therapy (PPGFon – UFPB, UFRN, UNCISAL), for making possible the elaboration of the works that contemplate this fascinating and priceless work.

PREFACE

Maria Fabiana Bonfim de Lima-Silva

This e-book is a collection of experiences from my insertion, in 2011, as a professor in the Department of Speech Therapy at the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB). Upon joining this institution, I developed an extension project called the Voice Advisory Program for Teachers (ASSEVOX), based on the knowledge I gained during the period in which I took my master's and doctorate, at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUCSP), under the guidance of the Professor Dr. Leslie Piccolotto Ferreira and Prof. Dr. Zuleica Camargo.

So, in the following year, with the desire that extension students could experience the reality of professors through practical experiences that went beyond the walls of the university, I submitted ASSEVOX to the UFPB 2012 Probex Notice, but unfortunately we did not receive the scholarship. Even so, with a pioneering group of six students, we started our actions through a Fluex project (Project only with volunteer students) in a private school with the objective of promoting vocal health for teachers and the school community. I remember that we went through several challenges, because the room that the school gave us for collection was not a clean, pleasant environment, however, we did not get discouraged and cleaned, painted the walls and renovated the entire room. Shortly after the renovation, we started our vocal health assessments and workshops. I remember to this day that many teachers were surprised by our act of cleaning the room, as no one had ever done anything to improve that room, and they said: "It was an abandoned room"; "...it was a real storage room for the school, now there is another room, well *organized and clean*".

It is worth noting that in the first meeting with the director of this school, it was emphasized that we would carry out vocal assessments of the teachers, but that after these procedures, the teachers participating in the project would receive the reports with the diagnosis and then participate in voice experience workshops with content theoretical and practical, within the school. In addition, our team inserted vocal health actions in the school calendar events (student day, teacher's day, family day, among others).

Then, in 2013, we took an important step towards ASSEVOX, we managed to get the project approved with a grant in the Probex 2013 Notice, and we entered into a partnership with the Department of Education and Culture of João Pessoa (SEDEC-JP). Thus, between 2012 and 2019, with the support of the Edital Probex and Fluex (UFPB), more than 60 extension workers participated in our project, from undergraduate, graduate and other courses (Psychology, Physiotherapy, among others). Currently, ASSEVOX has managed to cover 15 schools in the public and private network, including kindergarten, elementary and

high school. In addition, during these seven years, in person, we carried out an average of 420 vocal screenings, 44 voice experience workshops and 21 lectures. In the last lecture, held in 2019, we were invited by SEDEC-JP to talk about the importance of voice in teaching work and handling voice amplifiers, in which my doctoral student Patrícia Penha and I presented relevant data from the research developed by ASSEVOX and strategies correct handling of microphones (voice amplifiers). It is worth noting that more than 500 amplifiers were delivered to the teachers participating in this event.

Such actions carried out during this period, yielded us several products, including participation in local, regional and national events (congresses, seminars, meetings), 10 publications of scientific articles in national and international journals, 14 book chapters, 73 complete, expanded abstracts and annals, 21 course conclusion works, 31 scientific initiation works, 5 dissertations, among others.

However, in the first months of 2020, we were surprised by the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, a rapidly spreading respiratory syndrome. Since then, several measures by the World Health Organization (WHO) have been taken to prevent the spread of this virus, including social distancing. This fact brought as the main impact to the ASSEVOX project the impossibility of carrying out the actions (workshops, screening and attendance) in person. As a result of these various changes, the project had to reinvent itself and adapt to the new reality, using digital platforms to continue developing its activities and contributing, more than ever, to society and the academic community. In addition, the project, which was previously aimed only at teachers, expanded its target audience to all voice professionals (teachers, telemarketers, digital influencers, actors, singers, telejournalists and others) and thus came to be called Vocal Advisory Program for Voice Professionals (ASSEVOX).

According to this new appearance, ASSEVOX showed itself to have solid foundations and an excellent potential to adapt to new situations. In this period, we idealized to make our *Instagram* profile a digital magazine, containing information accessible to voice professionals and the entire community. Through meetings, we create content, develop means of interaction and broaden our view of the most diverse forms of health promotion. With this, we continue with our scientific initiation projects, discuss book chapters, participate in open classes and regional events, publish scientific articles and, above all, drive our dreams!

Currently, we had the project "Analysis of the effects of a distance vocal health program for teachers in the state of Paraíba" approved in the Universal Demand Notice n° 09/2021, promoted by the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Paraíba (FAPESQ), which brings unprecedented insofar as there are no other proposals in force in the state with the purpose of assisting and supporting the essential professional for the development of our society, such as the teacher, issues related to the health and quality of life of several educators in the state, especially those who do not have the financial possibilities or conditions to be accompanied by a professional speech therapist.

This *e-book* is part of a beautiful journey full of challenges. A path traveled with dedication, responsibility and union. Therefore, we invite you, the reader, to know a little more about the work performed by the ASSEVOX group over these 10 years.

I wish you a good read and that this work is an inspiration for all those who wish to tread the paths of university extension, teaching and research.

PRESENTATION

This *e-book* entitled "**Professional Voice: Integrated Teaching, Research and University Extension Practices**" is the result of an extension project called "Vocal Advisory Program for Voice Professionals" (ASSEVOX), which has been developed since the year of 2012 with the support of the public notice for the Extension Scholarship Program (PROBEX) of the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), whose main objective is to promote vocal health and prevent voice disorders in the most diverse professionals who depend on it to perform their work.

In this work, 14 chapters were gathered that explain from the experience of students and teachers who participated in the voice advisory program, to themes related to the prevention of voice disorders, vocal health promotion and around expressiveness. In them, there are studies about teachers, telemarketers, telejournalists and digital influencers. The purpose of this e-book is to expand the knowledge of undergraduate, graduate and Speech-Language Pathology professionals, as well as all those interested in studying voice professionals. In addition, we hope to encourage and drive the development of research through the vision and experiences of a university extension.

It is important to highlight that this work is composed of results of scientific initiation research and experiences around the ASSEVOX university extension. The chapters were prepared by students (undergraduate and graduate students) and by professional researchers from UFPB and other institutions (UNIPÊe PUC-SP) who, in a responsible and qualified way, proposed to explain their studies with current and relevant themes for the scientific community and society as a whole.

We wish you a great read!

Maria Fabiana Bonfim de Lima-Silva
Aline Menezes Guedes Dias de Araújo
Patrícia Brianne da Costa Penha
Gabriella Lucena Feitosa
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PHONETIC VARIATION OF THE REGIONAL ACCENT IN TELEJORNAL PRESENTERS: AN EVALUATION THROUGH VOCAL PROFILE ANALYSIS SCHEME

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ABSTRACT: The accent of the TV news presenter has been changing over time and is closer to the viewer. Objective: to describe the variation in phonetic and vocal accent adjustments in three prime-time newscasters from three different stations in the state of Paraíba, between 2014 and 2020. Methods: observational and descriptive study, with retrospective temporal directionality and qualitative approach. The sample consisted of two news excerpts, from three female TV news presenters linked to the three main television stations in the state of Paraíba, in the time frame from 2014 to 2020. The instrument used in this research was the Vocal Profile Analysis Scheme (VPAS-PB), adapted by Camargo and

Madureira (2008) for Brazilian Portuguese. Results: in supralaryngeal adjustments, only presenter 1 changed more markedly the position of lips, tongue, jaw, general muscle tension and phonatory aspects. In vocal dynamics adjustments, low pitch, increased loudness and fast speech rate were common among the presenters. Conclusion: There was a change in the phonetic and vocal adjustments of the accent in the three presenters when comparing the two time frames. Lips stretched and with ample extension, increase in the extension of the mandible, retracted tongue body and increased tongue extension, pharyngeal constriction, low position of the larynx, low habitual pitch, increased habitual loudness and rapid speech rate were the main adjustments that underwent modification.

KEYWORDS: Phonetics, Voice, Journalism, Television.

1 I INTRODUCTION

Communication is an indispensable tool for the newscaster, who uses it to transmit information in an understandable way to the audience, in order to attract their maximum attention. As a science that studies human communication, Speech Therapy has been contributing from the formation to the counseling of these professionals, aiming to guide the vocal health and improve verbal communication and body expression (PÉREZ-RAMOS, 1990; AZEVEDO; FERREIRA; KIRILLOS, 2009).

Since the 1970s it is noticeable that these professionals have a more formal communicative profile, with emphasis on tonic syllables, excessive use of pauses and little vocal modulation. This uniform pronunciation aimed at minimizing speech characteristics that could hinder the content of the news (COTES, 2005). Thus, this accent pattern became a style recommended by the job market and also became more accepted by the listening public (LOPES et al., 2013; RAMOS; LIRA.; ROAZZI, 2015).

Currently, the formal accent of the news anchor has been changing and his speech is increasingly closer to the viewer. Studies show an appreciation for a more colloquial, expressive, natural, less artificial and stereotyped narration, however, without losing the markers of professional communication. This new format in journalism is enabling a greater connection of empathy with the viewer, but without giving up qualifiers such as credibility, reliability, objectivity, and authenticity (SANTOS et al., 2014; PENINI et al., 2018).

This change in accent can be attributed to the rapid technological growth by which has introduced significant modifications in the way journalistic information is produced, conceived and narrated, as well as the innovation of the work environment with modern scenarios, materials, resources and dynamics that provide direct interaction with the public (COUTINHO, 2009; SILVA; PENTEADO, 2014). These modifications began to emerge already in the first decade of the 2000s, with the popularization of the web and the emergence of other audiovisual content media leading the news programs to adhere to new ways of attracting the audience, thinking of a less formalistic and more relaxed performance (BELÉM; CIRNE, 2017).

Considering the great changes occurred in the accent of telejournalism, as well as the reduced number of studies that explain this new process, it was proposed the elaboration of a study for a better understanding about the communication of telejournalism presenters. Therefore, the following question was established: what changes in phonetic and vocal adjustments observed in Paraíba's newscasters can evidence the change in accent?

Changes in the speech pattern can be explained through phonetic analysis of supralaryngeal adjustments and vocal dynamics by providing perceptual-auditory data that clarify these changes (CAMARGO; MADUREIRA, 2008). Thus, knowing that such information is essential for the foundation of phonoaudiological action in the advice of these professionals, this study aims to describe the variation of phonetic and vocal adjustments of the accent in three women presenters of prime time television news from three different stations in the state of Paraíba, between the years 2014 and 2020.

21 METHODS

This is an observational and descriptive study, with retrospective temporal directionality and qualitative approach.

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The corpus of this research includes the analysis of two news excerpts (one from 2014 and another from 2020), from three female news anchors, linked to the three main television stations in the state of Paraíba

The instrument used in this research was the Vocal Profile AnalysisScheme (VPAS-PB), authored by Laveret al. (1981) and adapted to Brazilian Portuguese by Camargo and Madureira (2008). The VPAS-PB is based on analyses of articulatory, physiological, acoustic and auditory adjustments carried out by phoneticists and speech therapists based on their perceptual ability to evaluate vocal quality as a combination of complementary adjustments, of phonatory (laryngeal) and articulatory (supralaryngeal) nature (CAMARGO; MADUREIRA, 2008).

The VPAS script covers two levels of perceptual-auditory analysis: one of vocal quality: laryngeal adjustments (phonatory), supralaryngeal (articulatory) and muscle tension, and another of vocal dynamics: pitch, loudness, elocution rate and other elements such as respiratory support. In addition, the instrument uses a six-point scale, classifying vocal adjustment from moderate (grade 1 to 3) to extreme (grade 4 to 6). In this study we selected for descriptive analysis the supralaryngeal and vocal dynamics adjustments, because they are closer to the research objective.

Initially, a search was conducted as to the time of the largest audience on broadcast TV, and according to "Media Data" (2019) prime time holds the largest number of viewers with TVs turned on throughout the country. Subsequently, it was verified which are the main broadcasters with the highest IBOPE in the state through the news reports available by the Jornal Digital Portal Correio (2019) and Jornal da Paraíba (2019) and from this three stations were chosen whose nightly news programs are coincidentally presented by women, so the sample of this study consisted of this gender.

Table 1 below describes the selected subjects, their news programs, stations and shifts:

Journalist	TV News	Broadcaster	Shift
Presenter 1	Tambaú da Gente	TV Tambaú	Night
Presenter 2	JPB2ª Edição	TV Cabo Branco	Night
Presenter 3	Jornal da Correio	TV Correio	Night

Table 1 - Sample Description

Source: survey data, 2020.

The choice of the sample excerpt was based on a neutral style news call, since neutral content allows for a more stable prosody (PANICO, 2005). The selected videos were located in an online digital platform, free of charge, and contemplated a period between

2014 and 2020. The choice of this period is based on the year of publication of the study by Lopes et al. (2013), p. 480, through which it was observed that the softened accent of the TV journalist from Paraiba was more accepted by the listening public.

As for the selection of the material, it was prioritized the presenter in the upright body posture at the moment they narrated the news, because it is the one that promotes the best sound production (CANEIRO; TELES, 2012). And the environment where the sample was collected occurred in the respective recording studios, without the interference of external and/or environmental noises (CALDEIRA; VIEIRA; BEHLAU, 2012).

The samples were collected in the following years: presenter 1 (2017-2020); presenter 2 (2015-2020); presenter 3 (2016-2020). The differences in the collection occurred for two reasons, first by the time of performance in the role of telejournalist, presenters 1 and 3 were reporters between the years 2014 and 2015 and it is known that the vocal dynamics of the reporter can be affected by the presence of environmental noise (CALDEIRA; VIEIRA; BEHLAU, 2012). The second reason was due to the changes of broadcaster, time and function and this could have biased the research.

The selected videos were converted into audio (MP3 format) also in digital platform online and free and edited in Audacity Software (version 2.4.2). The selected part was edited, standardized and finally analyzed in consensus by two judges, speech therapists and trained in the VPAS-PB script. The data were presented in tables and described qualitatively.

3 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Historically, the formal or soft accent was extremely valued in the speech of telejournalists and brought a standard of narration free of regional marks (OLIVEIRA, 2001; LOPES et al., 2013). Currently the accent has been changing and the phonetic and physiological understanding can bring significant contributions to the phonoaudiological performance in the communicative advice with the telejournalists.

The use of the VPAS script in accent assessment was first recorded by Lima et al. (2007). This study evaluated the vocal quality of speakers from João Pessoa (non-voice professionals and without vocal alteration), which showed a predominance of receded tongue body settings in males, and of receded and lowered tongue body settings in females (LIMA et al., 2007).

In this research the accent of the three TV news anchors was analyzed through this script qualitatively, the data are explained below in two sections: supralaryngeal adjustments and vocal dynamics adjustments.

I Supralaringeal Adjustments

Extended

Extension

Advanced

Stepped back

Extended reach

Constriction

2

2

4

3

1

TONGUE TIP

TONGUE BODY

PHARYNX

VELOFARINGE

LARYNGE

PRESENTER 1 – (A1)					
N	MOMENT 2017			MOMENT 2020	
ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE	ELEMENTS	ADJUSTMENTS	DEGREE
				Stretched	2
LIPS	Enlarged Extension	3	LIPS	Labiodentalization	3
				Increased extension	5
MANDIBLE	Enlarged Extension	3	MANDIBLE	Increased extension	5
TONGUE TIP	Advanced	4	TONGUE TIP	Advanced	3
TONGUE BODY	Lowered	1	TONGUE BODY	Retreated	3
TONGUE BODY	Extended reach	3	TONGUE BODY	Increased extension	5
PHARYNX	Constriction	3	PHARYNX	Constriction	4
VELOFARINGE	Nasal	3	VELOFARINGE	Nasal	3
LARYNGE	Lowered	2	LARYNGE	Lowered	2
		PRE	SENTER 2- (A2)		
N	MOMENT 2015			MOMENT 2020	
ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE	ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE
LIPS	Extended	4	LIPS	Stretched	3
LIPS	Exterided	4	LIPS	Increased Extension	4
*****	5	3	*****	B	3
MANDIBLE	Protracted	3	MANDIBLE	Protracted	4

PRESENTER 3	- (A3)
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TONGUE TIP

TONGUE BODY

PHARYNX

VELOFARINGE

LARYNGE

MOMENT 2016			MOMENT 2020		
ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE	ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE
LIPS	Rounded Extended	3 3	LIPS	Rounded Extended	3 4
MANDIBLE	Protracted Extended	3 3	MANDIBLE	Protracted Extended	3 4
TONGUE TIP	Advanced	2	TONGUE TIP	Advanced	2

Extended

Advanced

Pulled back

Extended reach

Constriction

2

3

5

4

1

2

TONGUE BODY	Stepped back Extended Extension	3 3	TONGUE BODY	Stepped back Extended Extension	4
LARYNGE	Lowered	4	LARYNGE	Lowered	5

Legend: Dedree (1 to 3) - moderate; Degree (4 to 6) - extreme.

Table 2 - Supralaringeal adjustments observed in the two news excerpts.

Source: research data, 2020.

In Table 2 it is possible to observe that A1, in 2020, changed markedly all supralaryngeal adjustments, especially stretched lips (grade 2), lipiodentalization (grade 3), increased mandible extension (grade 5), increased tongue body extension (grade 5), retracted tongue (grade 3), and extreme pharyngeal constriction (grade 4). The other presenters maintained the same adjustments, sometimes reducing in some, sometimes accentuating in others. A2, in 2020 presented stretched lips (grade 3), extreme pharyngeal constriction (grade 4), increased tongue tip indentation (grade 3), tongue body extension (grade 5) and jaw extension (grade 3).

On the other hand, A3 increased lip extension (grade 4), jaw extension and tongue body extension (grade 4), and further intensified the low laryngeal position (grade 5). The low larynx was a common feature among them, however A3, due to the rounded lips setting increased the degree of the lowering of the larynx and differentiated herself among the other telejournalists who maintained stretched lips settings.

In a general context, we noticed that A1 and A2 in 2020 presented a more similar change in phonetic adjustments, the stretched lips with smiling narration, increased lip and jaw extension, advanced tongue tip, indented tongue body conferred a more intense overarticulation of the news, to the detriment of previous years, and reveal this modification.

The dynamism that has been gaining the telejournalism in recent decades inserts modifications in the body, vocal and linguistic expressiveness of telejournalists, with the increase of postures and movements they start to adapt to the new demands of expressiveness with more naturalness, dynamism and spontaneity (PENTEADO; GASTADELHO; SILVA, 2014).

II Vocal Dynamics Adjustments

		PRESENTE	ER 1 – (A1)		
	MOMENT 2017			MOMENT 2020	
ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE	ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE
PITCH	Usual Down	2	PITCH	Usual Down	1
	Increased Variability	2			
LOUDNESS	Usual Increased	1	LOUDNESS	Usual Increased	4
	Increased Variability	3		Increased Variability	4
ELOCUTION RATE	Fast	3	ELOCUTION RATE	Fast	5
RESPIRATORY SUPPORT	Inadequate	1	RESPIRATORY SUPPORT	Inadequate	1
		PRESENT	ER 2- (A2)		
	MOMENT 2015			MOMENT 2020	
ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE	ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE
PITCH	Usual Down	1	PITCH	Usual Down	1
	Increased Variability	3		Increased Variability	4
LOUDNESS	Usual Increased	3	LOUDNESS	Usual Increased	4
	Increased Variability	3		Increased Variability	4
ELOCUTION RATE	Fast	4	ELOCUTION RATE	Fast	4
		PRESENT	ER 3- (A3)		
	MOMENT 2016			MOMENT 2020	
ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE	ELEMENTS	SETTINGS	DEGREE
PITCH	Usual Down	2	PITCH	Usual Down	2
	Increased Variability	3		Increased Variability	1
LOUDNESS	Increased Variability	3	LOUDNESS	Increased Variability	1
ELOCUTION RATE	Fast	4	ELOCUTION RATE	Fast	4

Table 3 - Vocal dynamics adjustments observed in the two news excerpts.

Source: survey data, 2020.

Table 3 shows the aspects of vocal dynamics by which it is noticeable in the three female presenters a lowered habitual pitch (bass), with increased variability, increased loudnesshabitual (A1 and A2) and a fast elocution rate. The pitch can be justified by the low laryngeal position, although the larynx in females is in a higher position than in males due to physiological aspects, the lowering of it, as observed in the female journalists is

explained by the literature as a more fluid pattern for emission and this occurs because it is associated with inspiration and glottal opening by which triggered an abductor component in the lowering gesture, making the voice softer and more comfortable (BRAZIL; YAMASAKI; LEÃO, 2005).

Another factor is that the stretched lip settings shorten the vocal tract while the rounded lips make it longer, therefore, the long vocal tract amplifies the formants in the bass regions and this favors a more muffled vocal quality. The short and narrow configuration amplifies the formants in high frequencies, favoring a strident voice, thus the difference in larynx size is responsible for variations in fundamental frequency and pitch (CAMARGO, 2002).

The increased loudness and fast elocution rate were also relevant adjustments and these same elements were also observed in the neutral reporting style when analyzed in open channel broadcasters, thus corroborating the findings of DIAS et al. (2015), however the increased loudness observed in A1 and A2 may also be associated with intense overarticulation (Table 3) and the stretched lips adjustment (Table 2). It is known that the posture, tone and mobility of phonoarticulatory organs directly influence articulation, vocal projection and laryngeal and pharyngeal adjustments; therefore, they have a broad relationship with vocal quality and the resonance system (OLIVEIRA, 2004).

Given the above, the results corroborate in some points with the literature which presumes for the telejournalist a deep voice with medium intensity, diffuse resonance, precise articulation, medium speed, employment of pauses and variable modulation in order to transmit clarity, naturalness, authenticity, originality, spontaneity and credibility in the process of building the news (COTES; KYRILLOS, 2011; KYRILLOS; TEIXEIRA, 2014)

Excessive adjustments, as seen earlier, such as overarticulation, intense loudness, air leakage and vocal harshnesscan be redirected from speech therapy intervention programs for professional television communication, which have satisfactory results in the integrated improvement of body, emotional, interpretation and speech aspects (SANTOS; FERREIRA; SILVA, 2019).

41 CONCLUSION

There was a change in the supralaryngeal and vocal accent adjustments in all three presenters from the VPAS instrument. Stretched lips with wide extension, increased jaw extension, retracted tongue body and increased extension, pharynx constriction, low laryngeal position, low pitch habitually, increased loudness habitually, and fast elocution rate were the main adjustments that changed respectively, when comparing qualitatively the initial years to the year 2020.

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